



**EMBARGOED Until Noon, September 18, 2014**

**Employment and Unemployment Statistics for September (August Data)**

	Current Month	Year Ago	Trough (low) Month of Recession	Gov Office	Previous Peak	Difference since Jan-2010	Difference since Jan 2009	Difference since Jan 2008
	August-14	Aug-2013	January-10	January-09	January-08			
Total Payrolls (jobs)	5,837,400	5,796,800	5,584,400	5,803,600	5,994,500	253,000	33,800	-157,100
Private Payrolls (jobs)	5,003,000	4,970,000	4,727,800	4,946,800	5,140,600	275,200	56,200	-137,600
Number (people) Employed	6,060,700	5,938,000	5,877,200	6,067,700	6,358,100	183,500	-7,000	-297,400
Number Labor Force	6,493,800	6,540,700	6,630,700	6,596,400	6,725,900	-136,900	-102,600	-232,100
Number (people) Unemployed	433,100	602,600	753,500	528,700	367,800	-320,400	-95,600	65,300
Employment/Population Ratio	60.2	59.2	66.9	67.0	65.0	-6.7	-6.8	-4.8
Labor Force Participation Rate	64.5	65.2	59.3	61.6	68.8	5.2	2.9	-4.3
Unemployment Rate	6.7	9.2	11.4	8.0	5.5	-4.7	-1.3	1.2

**Positives:**

1. Construction jobs improving +11,200 in 2014 compared with +2,000 for the entire year 2013
2. Lowest unemployment since August 2008 when it was 6.7 percent/July 2008 it was 6.6 %
3. Illinois and U.S. unemployment rate gap reached its historical average of 0.6 percentage points.
4. 168,000 jobs posted online on IllinoisJobLink.com

**Negatives:**

**Lowest labor force participation rate since March 1978**

This is a national trend, with the U.S. at participation rates last seen also in March 1978

In August, as in July, fewer people said they were working & fewer said they were looking for work. Last month, some critics contended these dual data points show more people are leaving the workforce because they believe they can't find work and are discouraged

Illinois employers reported +13,800 more jobs in August than in July. The labor force movement is a national trend that began decades ago;

Fewer people are looking for work because baby boomers are retiring and people are going back to school. Illinois is following the national trend

**Nonfarm payrolls (jobs) are up +8,700 for the current year, less than in two previous years**

Illinois still lags behind other Midwest states in job growth:

Illinois employers added nearly 13,800 jobs in August compared with July. There are 275,000 more private sector jobs today than a few years ago.

IDES is sponsoring a special Hiring Event today for Veterans that uses Illinoisjoblink.com and resume builder to help people find jobs.